The shekel

Volume XVI, No. 4 July-August 1983

The Pursuit of Palestine Rarities

Rachel's Tomb

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NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, *a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.*

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at $10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at $150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) $2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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The SHEKEL שקל

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George Gilbert, *Editor*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
The President's Message . . .	2
Judaic Shares of the Past 100 Years . . . *by Shmuel Matalon, Tel-Aviv*	3
Moses Tolano — A Sephardic Merchant of Barbados . . . *by Robert Leonard*	6
Pursuit of Palestine Rarities: What Does it Cost? . . . *by Howard M. Berlin*	10
Competition Announced for 1984 Membership Medal Design	17
Greater New York Numismatic Convention Reaches Peak Bourse	18
A Variety of an Israel Telephone Token . . . *by Samuel Lachman, Haifa*	22
A Die Crack of the 10 Sheqalim 5742-1982 Coin . . . *by Samuel Lachman, Haifa*	22
Israel Coins Depict Fortress of Herodion	23
AINA Research Library Launched with Bross Donation	25
My Israel Experience: AINA's 15th Annual Study Tour to Israel . . . *by Seymour Specter*	26
New Sheqel Banknotes to Feature Prime Ministers and Nobel Prize Winner . . . *by Paul Wolffers, Bat Yam*	31
Top Recruiters Membership Report	32

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram

Dear Friends,

As we enter the second half of 1983, I wonder if we are meeting the goals we set before the year began. The year is one of growth and activities which have established new levels of AINA performance.

Everyone was delighted with the recent double mailing which included the 15 year Index to the hundreds of articles of publications since 1968. Special thanks to Editor George Gilbert who proposed the plan, and to Mel Wacks who cross-indexed every article.

We are in full gear moving toward the Fall New York Convention (see back cover). Please make every effort to join us. Bring us news of your successes in building membership and interest in Israeli coin collecting.

The INS of Westchester played a major role in establishing a numismatic exhibit in a fine Judaica museum in New York, with special efforts by Fred Jacobs and Michael Druck.

Your national office has been distributing the promised bound volumes of the Holocaust numismatics issues of *THE SHEKEL* to museums, libraries and to other parts of the Jewish and numismatic communities where AINA has been known, but not seen before.

Plans are now in progress for the launch of the new INS of San Diego (August 16th, 1983; 8:00 P.M., Town & Country Hotel). I will be attending the four INS Clubs meeting in southern California on Sunday, August 14th at 1:00 P.M. at the Los Angeles Hilton.

We are organizing the INS of Phoenix during the month of October.

The Greater New York Coin Convention held in May, 1983 SOLD OUT every possible dealer table. Dealers had to be turned away. Now we look forward to our next convention which will be September 29-30, October 1-2, 1983.

We have established a variety of plans to build our membership for the years ahead. We are aware that we must attract the next generation of collectors as we bring members to AINA or to the individual clubs.

We are proud of the fact we can boast that we are the only numismatic association which has for 15 continuous years provided a numismatic study tour to one country, ISRAEL.

Garber Travel of Brookline, Massachusetts will be our tour company for our 1984 study tour to Israel.

March 15-29, 1984 — Deluxe Hotels, Breakfast and dinner throughout, and many, many more special highlights and events. The biggest one is the price: $1,645.00 per person.

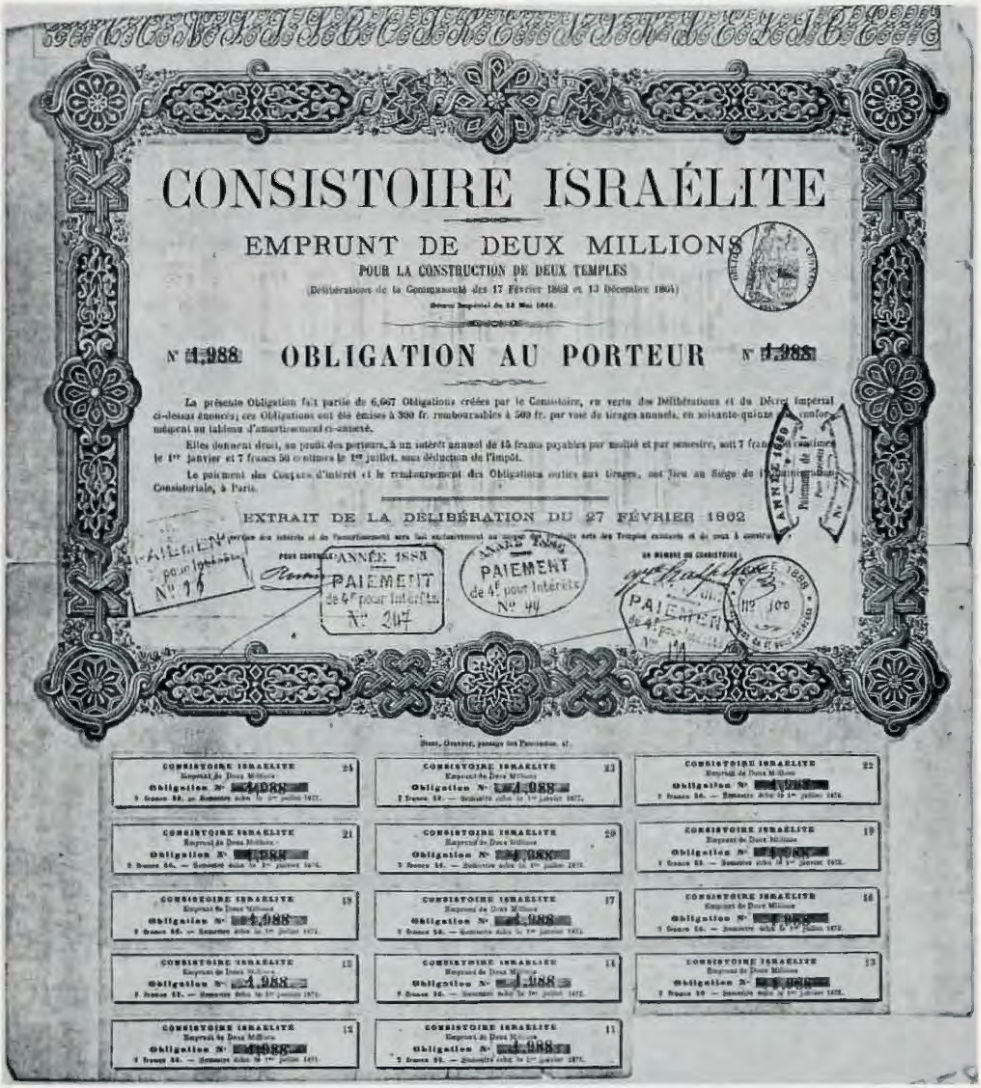
For further details, please contact our Tamarac office.

SHALOM,

Morris

JUDAIC SHARES OF THE PAST 100 YEARS

by Shmuel Matalon, Tel-Aviv



Obligation of the Constitoire Israelite

The growing interest in the field of financial documents such as shares, debt certificates, obligations, cheques, etc, in Israel has uncovered more and more items. We hear of banks and other financial institutions which have been forgotten and the existence of others vaguely remembered by those who have lived in their time. In the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, there were many banks and financial institutions which had short lives before their existence came to an end.

The number of Judaic shares in Europe is, of course, much much smaller, but here too we hear of some items that have emerged. A most interesting one to come to light lately is a debt certificate of the Jewish community in Paris—perhaps the oldest one we know, 121 years old—from the year 1862.

It is an obligation to bearer of the Jewish community in Paris, issued by the *Consistoire Israelite*, the official organization of the Jewish congregation, according to the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. It was established in 1808 by the Jewish community of France, consisting of the merging of three regional communities: the Sephardic-Portuguese; that of Alsace-Lorraine, and that of Southern France. The Consistoire of Paris controlled the 16 departments of the city, and it headed a group of 13 regional consistories which in turn controlled the local communities.

Back in 1862, the Jewish community of Paris decided to build two synagogues; one was to be located on the Rue de La Victoire, the other near Notre-Dame de Nazareth. To raise funds for that purpose, it was decided to issue bearer bonds to the amount of 2 million Francs. This "obligation au porteur", a beautiful document, is printed in French without Judaic signs such as *Magen David* or Hebrew letters. The issue consisted of 6667 obligations at 300 francs each, to be redeemed at 500 francs by annual drawings in 75 years, ending in 1939. The annual interest was 15 francs, with 7.50 francs paid on Jan. 1st, and the other 7.50 paid on the 1st of July.

The Poalei Zion share

This share was issued by Poalei-Zion *(Workers of Zion)*, a Jewish socialist party founded in Europe in 1900 with several branches both in Europe and the U.S. Owing to ideological differences, there were many changes during the years, both in Israel and abroad. Finally the party partly integrated into the Labour movement in Israel. Poalei-Zion, for several years, stood for two lan-

A ¼ share (15 francs) of the Paoli Zion publication, "Worker's Word."

guages, Hebrew and Yiddish, and it issued quite a number of publications in Yiddish.

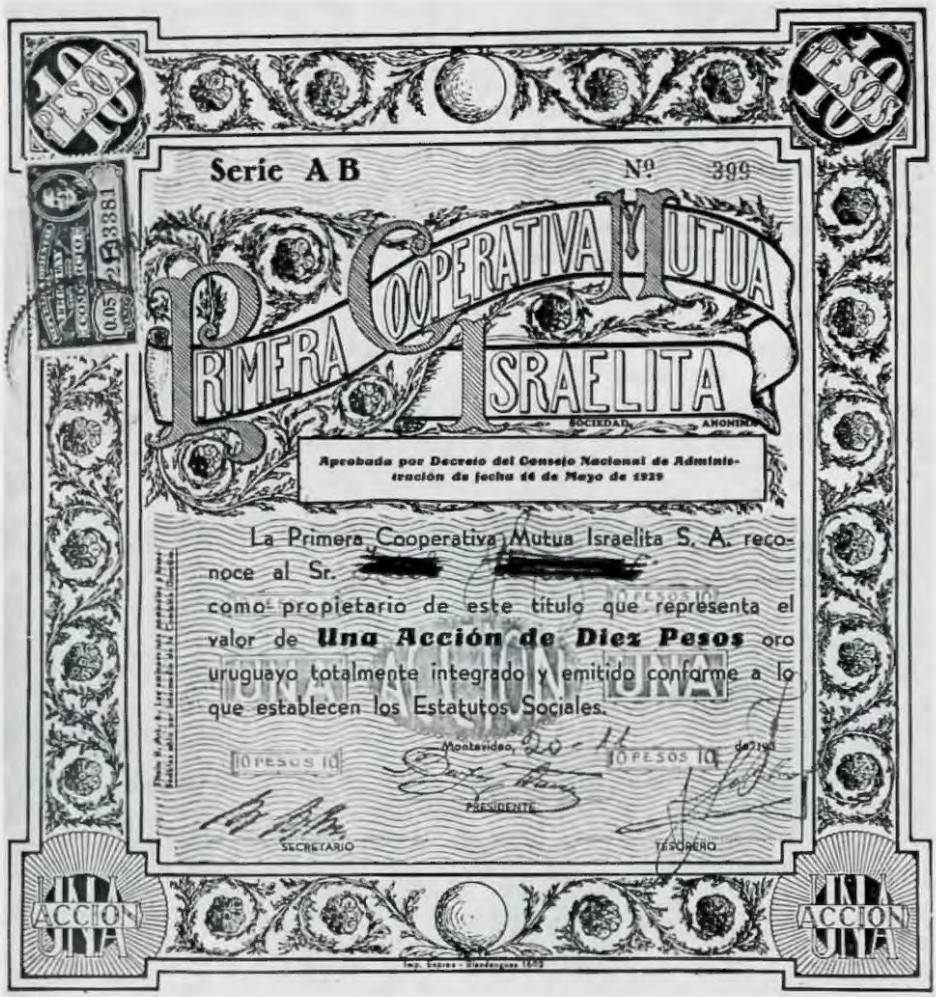
Purchasers of this certificate become share holders of the monthly organ in Yiddish of the West-European Federation of Poalei-Zion called "Arbeiter Vort" *(Workers' Word.)*

This share, a tiny and simple document of 12½x11 cms, bears an internal character and form. It is entirely in Yiddish, and, of course, it was not issued under the official corporations' ordinances of the country. It was sold privately within a limited circle to Yiddish readers, primarily members of Poalei-Zion, either for francs or pounds, depending on the country where it was sold. In the present case, the share was sold in Paris for 15 francs (one-fourth).

A fourth of a share is not common; we may deduce that the purpose was to issue part-shares at low cost to enable every member or adherent of this socialist movement to buy.

There is no date on the share, but it would seem right to attribute it to

(Cont. on page 9)



Issued by "First Jewish Mutual Cooperative," Montevideo, Uruguay-1937.

MOSES TOLANO—A SEPHARDIC MERCHANT OF BARBADOS

by Robert Leonard

Jews first came to Barbados shortly after the first English settlement of the island in 1627. One authority, Schomburgk, stated that the Jewish settlement dated from 1628, inferring this from a letter that year from Abraham Jacob of London to the Lord Proprietor of Barbados, a complaint about the island trade.

It is more likely, however, that the first Jews arrived a few years later, following the invasion of Brazil by the Dutch. In 1548, large numbers of Sephardic Jews were banished from Portugal to Brazil; but the Dutch invasion of 1630—culminating in the conquest of virtually the entire country by 1635—gave the Jews there both the necessity and the opportunity to escape. Many left for Surinam, Martinque—and Barbados.

Whenever they first arrived, the *Minutes of Council of Barbados* for November 8, 1654 include "*Ordered that the consideration of the jews and foreigners brought from Brazele to the Island be presented at the next sitting of ye Governor, Council and Assembly.*" An act of January 1655 gave "Jews and Hebrews" "*the privileges of Laws and Statutes of the Commonwealth of England and of this Island, relating to foreigners and strangers.*"

But after a time the Jews of Barbados were denied access to the courts (on account of their refusal to swear Christian oaths), as several petitions of the 1670's and 1680's show. Though each time they were granted relief (by being allowed to swear by the five *Books of Moses*), a discriminatory law was passed in direct opposition to these decisions in 1684. These remained on the statutes of Barbados until 1786.

Resentment was also directed against the Jews on the suspicion that they were dealers in underweight or counterfeit money. The *Minutes of Council* for April 27, 1682 state "*Information being given to this Board of Mr. Raphaell de Mercado importing and vending extraordinary light Spanish (coin), which may in time prove a thing of evil consequence by means thereof; and for that it appeared to this Board the information had matter of truth in it; It is therefore ordered, that the said Raphaell de Mercado stand forthwith bound to the Grand Sessions, there to answer the same. . .*" Lightweight Portuguese gold coins were a serious problem in the West Indies in the 17th and 18th centuries, and these led to a "*most alarming depreciation of our currency,*" as one early writer put it. In 1791 Governor Parry issued a proclamation making gold and silver current in Barbados by weight and fineness only, instead of by tale.

Notwithstanding these handicaps, the Jewish community in Barbados prospered for over a century. Additional colonists arrived in 1680, and towards the end of the 17th century there were about 250 Jews living on the island. "The Jewes Synagogue" is mentioned in a deed dated September 1, 1664, and it remained at the same location into the 20th century.

"Jew Street" in Bridgetown

The entire community lived in the capital of Bridgetown, chiefly on Swan Street, a block from the synagogue, which was on Synagogue Lane and Magazine Lane. Swan Street came to be called Jew Street and it retained this name down to the 20th century as the Jews gradually acquired nearly all of its houses and its entire business section. Though they could own property, the Jews of Barbados did not participate in the sugar works business; their holidays interfered with the continuous labor required to cultivate sugar there. Rather, they became prosperous in the resale of linen, cotton goods, hardware, pottery, and bullion trades, chiefly out of London.

With the removal of all civil and political disabilities between 1786 and the commencement of the 19th century, the prosperity of the Jews of Barbados increased further, reaching its zenith early in the 19th century. But then a series of reverses began. The great hurricane of 1831 caused extensive property loss, the synagogue itself being destroyed. Though the synagogue was rebuilt and rededicated with high ceremony, the community was already showing signs of decline. Only about 93 Jews attended the ceremony of dedication; by then the Jewish community was reduced in numbers and wealth, confined to Swan Street alone.

The chief cause of this decline has been traced to the completion of the canal system in central England. This led to the rise of Liverpool as a manufacturing and exporting center. The Jews of Barbados, supplied from London, in succession lost their trade in linen, cotton goods, hardware and pottery, and even bullion as the Government began to supply an abundancy of full weight coins in pay to the garrisons. A further blow fell in 1834 with the emancipation of the slaves; though the Jews were not large slaveholders, the resulting contraction of the economy affected them as well.

From the mid-1830's the decline of the Jewish community was swift. Many prominent families left to settle in England and the United States. By 1848 there were only 71 Jews left on Barbados, 38 of whom belonged to the congregation. By 1900, their numbers had shriveled to less than 20, and by 1928, Edmund Isaac

Baeza - then an old man - was the final remaining male member of the Hebrew faith on the island. In that year, acting as trustee of the synagogue, he sold the entire property, including the burial ground, to a Bridgetown solicitor.

Despite restrictive covenants to the contrary, all of the tombs have since been laid level and covered over. Fortunately Mr. Eustace M. Shilstone, a founder of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, had earlier copied all the epitaphs. A new congregation has since been organized there, chiefly composed of Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution and their descendants. So, although a chapter in the history of the Jews of Barbados has closed, a new one has begun.

Young Tolano becomes a merchant

In the summer or fall of 1813, Moses Tolano was born in Bridgetown to Joseph Tolano and his wife. In due time he assumed the usual Jewish occupation of merchant, importing

Tolano tokens, ca. 1834-40

bales and casks of goods from England for his shop at 33 Swan Street. Finding small change scarce, he had copper farthing and halfpenny tokens struck in England sometime between 1834 and 1840. His initial supply of halfpence being paid out, he ordered a second striking - even though his name was misspelled "Tolanto" on the tokens. Later, as he redeemed his tokens, he cancelled them with an oblong punch mark. Depite the exodus of prominent Jews from Barbados about this time, he remained until his death. Moses Tolano was buried May 30, 1852 (12 Sevan 5610) at the early age of 38½ years. His will was registered in the *Public Records Office* on June 4, 1852.

This much can be deduced from the known history of the Jews of Barbados, the tokens of Moses Tolano, Pridmore's book on the coins of the British West Indies, and a single entry in the *Burial Register* of the Jews, deposited in the *Central Registry* at Bridgetown: "5610 12 Sevan 1852 30 May Moses of Joseph Tolano aged 38½ years." There was no corresponding memorial in the graveyard.

No other burial record of a member of the Tolano family is known, so perhaps they were later arrivals to the island than the rest of the community. The name Tolanto is unknown today in Barbados.

The two tokens of Moses Tolano, the farthing *(Pridmore 28, 21.8 mm)* and halfpenny *(Pridmore 27, 29 mm)* share a common design. On the obverse is a bale marked "MT" with "MOSES TOLANTO/BARBADOES" (sic) around. The reverse shows a cask marked "MT" with "FREEDOM WITHOUT SLAVERY" and an ornament around. Both sides have beaded borders.

From their style and fabric these tokens have been dated by Russell Rulau to circa 1810-1820, and by other numismatists to the 1830-1840 period, but because Moses Tolano was only 17 in 1830 (published here for the first time in a numismatic context) his tokens were certainly issued somewhat later than that. Since the reverse inscription seems to be a clear reference to the emancipation of the slaves in 1834, when Moses Tolano was turning 21, I date these tokens to the period 1834-1840, most probably 1834 or 1835. While scarce, both tokens are nevertheless collectible, though the halfpenny is perhaps five times as plentiful as the farthing.

Pridmore assumes the spelling "Tolanto" to be an engraver's error; what is puzzling is that both heavy and lightweight halfpence are known, which probably indicates a reorder from the uncorrected die. Both halfpenny and farthing are known with deep oblong punch marks to cancel their use as currency.

These tokens are thus among the few surviving relics of the Sephardic Jews of Barbados. So numismatics reminds us once again of another long-vanished Jewish community!

References:

E. M. Shilstone, *Monumental Inscriptions in the Burial Ground of the Jewish Synagogue at Bridgetown, Barbados*. New York, 1956.

N. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., *Notes on the History of the Jews in Barbados*. American Jewish Historical Society publications, 1909.

Both of the preceding publications can be found in the Jewish collection of the New York Public Library, call nos. *PXX 1956 and *PX V.3, No. 16.

F. Pridmore, *The Coins of The British Commonwealth of Nations to the end of the reign of George VI 1952; Part 3, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras and the British West Indies*. London, 1965, p. 89.

JUDAIC SHARES

(Cont. from page 5)

the 1920's or 1930's. The text follows:

No. 121 *Series C*
15 Francs
Pounds *¼ of a Share*
for
"Arbeter Vort"
a monthly organ for the West-European federation Poalei-Zion
Sold in . . . Paris
Administrator(?) *Cashier (Shmulik)*

Uruguay share of a Jewish Cooperative

This Judaic share is from Uruguay, issued by the "First Jewish Mutual Cooperative". It had a value of 10 pesos, and it was issued in Montevideo in 1937, a city where about 30,000 Jews, mostly immigrants from Eastern Europe lived at that time. The share is printed in Spanish, and in bright colours.

The Jewish Cooperative issuing this share was an agricultural one.

PURSUIT OF PALESTINE RARITIES: WHAT DOES IT COST?

by
Howard M. Berlin

A close friend, knowing of my strong interest in Palestine Mandate numismatics recently asked, *"How much would it cost to assemble a complete Palestine Mandate collection?"* I asked what he meant by a "complete" collection. *"Everything,"* he responded. *"Every coin date, denomination, and banknote issued in uncirculated condition."*

I immediately recalled the well spoken line, "If you have to ask, you can't afford it." I then proceeded to inform my friend, who admittedly was very naive about numismatics, that his question in this case was not easily answered. It might be possible to quickly price a set of Jefferson nickels or Israeli commemoratives, both of which are readily obtained through dealers. Nevertheless, his question caused me to think awhile. From a practical viewpoint, such a question was not unreasonable, as one might need a likely estimate for insurance purposes or a sale possibility.

One of the first estimates that I remembered was for uncirculated Mandate coins in a 1968 *Shekel* article *(Vol. I, No. 4)* by Sylvia Haffner. If only these low prices were applicable in today's market! Since that time, other estimates have appeared in monographs by Trowbridge and Kagan, as well as in the periodic magazine *NUMISRAEL.*

The January-February 1978 *Shekel (Vol. XI, No. 1)* article by Sidney Olson, *"In the Pursuit of Palestine Rarities,"* described his search for rare Palestine material, although no prices were mentioned. Unfortunately no major coin tabloid or periodical in the recent past has sought to report regularly on auction sales or major Palestine Mandate material. This is unfortunate since the Palestine Mandate coinage and banknotes are 20th century material (at the most, 56 years old), commanding prices higher than comparable United States material.

The prices here are quoted from public auction catalogs, mail bids, and private sales since 1973 where I had either first or second-hand knowledge. All opinions, conclusions, and unintentional errors are my own.

Palestine Mandate Coins with Key Dates

1 Mil	2 Mils	5 Mils	10 Mils	20 Mils	50 Mils	100 Mils
1927	1927	1927	1927	1927	1927	1927
1935	1941	1934*	1933*	1933	1931*	1931*
1937*	1942	1935	1934	1934*	1933	1933
1939	1945	1939	1935*	1935	1934*	1934*
1940*	1946*	1941*	1937	1940	1935	1935
1941		1942	1939	1941*	1939	1939
1942		1944	1940	1942	1940	1940
1943		1946	1941*	1944	1942	1942
1944			1942(CN)			
1946			1942(BN)			
			1943*			
			1946			

*Indicates key dates

Coinage

The table presents the 59 issued coins necessary to complete an entire set. these coins were minted from 1927 to 1946 in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 Mils. Most of these are what I would call "garden variety," easily obtained in true uncirculated condition (or BU) at reasonable prices, generally below $100. The dates marked by an asterisk(*) are those which I consider to be uncirculated "keys" to the series.

Even among these key dates, there are a few that can be considered "the rarer of the rare," those which are on virtually every "Want List", at least in uncirculated condition. I feel that these are: 1933 and 1935 10 Mils; 1934, 1940, 1944 20 Mils; 1931 and 1934 100 Mils. Several stories about the 1934 20 Mil coin may be illustrative of their elusiveness.

1934 20 Mil Coin (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

Like most of the key date coins, a 1934 20 Mil coin had not been publicly offered for sale for quite a while until the December, 1979. The "Bat Yam" mail bid sale by Moshe Preger of New York (lot #196) was welcomed. Although it had an estimate of $700, this 1934 specimen went for $1,450. It is rumored that the winning bidder had been willing to go as high as $2,000 to secure it.

It should be pointed out that, by most definitions, Palestine 20 Mil coins are not considered "crowns", as are the 100 Mil coins. Furthermore, the key of the 100 Mil crowns was considered then by most to be the 1934 100 Mil piece; it was then selling for about $750 in uncirculated condition. (I feel the 1931 date to be rarer.) However, to be fair, the mintage of the 1934 20 Mil was 125,000; the 1934 100 Mil was 200,000.

In 1981, during the *Greater New York Coin Convention*, Bill Rosenblum reportedly purchased an uncirculated 1934 20 Mil piece for approximately $800. He (it is said) promptly resold it to another dealer about five minutes later for $1,500. It is rumored that a half-hour later this new owner later reluctantly turned down a cash offer of $2,000. I don't know of another coin that enjoyed as great a price increase in such a short time. Reportedly, in November 1982, Bill Rosenblum again sold a 1934 20 Mil coin; this time the sale price was $2,500.

As virtually no dealer has ever advertised a complete sales price list for all 59 coins in *uncirculated* condition, the following list is my attempt to place present market values

What It Could Cost to Assemble a 59 Coin Set

1 Mil	2 Mils	5 Mils	10 Mils	20 Mils	50 Mils	100 Mils
1927-$18	1927-$22	1927-$25	1927-$45	1927-$90	1927-$50	1927-$90
1935-$18	1941-$22	1934-$100	1933-$1500	1933-$500	1931-$300	1931-$2500
1937-$100	1942-$25	1935-$25	1934-$1500	1934-$2500	1933-$90	1933-$450
1939-$25	1945-$60	1939-$25	1935-$1600	1935-$275	1934-$200	1934-$800
1940-$100	1946-$100	1941-$60	1937-$200	1940-$2000	1935-$40	1935-$75
1941-$18		1942-$50	1939-$150	1941-1200	1939-$25	1939-$100
1942-$18		1944-$20	1940-$100	1942-$200	1940-$70	1940-$60
1943-$18		1946-$20	1941-$225	1944-$1300	1942-$50	1942-$50
1944-$18			1942(CN)-$150			
1946-$20			1942(BR)-$150			
			1943-$200			
			1946-$95			

to each coin. All prices are based either on a combination of past sales and present dealer prices, or on an educated guess as to what serious collectors and willing dealers would be paying for any given coin, especially those that without reported sales for several years.

At these prices today one would have to spend approximately $19,837 to acquire a complete uncirculated set of the 59 coins assuming that all coins were available. For collectors aiming at a less lofty goal, complete sets of *average circulated grades* can be easily assembled in the $400-$1,000 range.

1947 1 Mil

1947 1 mil Coin (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

In 1947, the *Palestine Currency Board* had the British Royal Mint strike 1, 2, 5, and 10 Mil coins for circulation. When it became apparent that the British Mandate would end, these coins were ordered melted down. Some coins survived this 1947 meltdown, most notably the 1 Mil coin which had an original mintage of 2.88 million.

In the 1973 *Glendining Sale*, the first 1947 1 Mil specimen was auctioned at a price unknown to the author. In the December, 1977 *Wayte Raymond Sale (NASCA, lot #2727)*, an *uncirculated* specimen sold for $7,500. At that time, NASCA claimed that this specimen was the second one known and it was promoted in the sale catalog as: "*may never appear again.*" Although a nice piece, the author was advised that the Raymond piece was closer to AU rather than UNC.

The "never again" theme used by NASCA was short lived; a third but much nicer Red/Brown UNC specimen was hammered down for $11,500 (plus $230 commission) in the 1978 NASCA *Olson Sale (lot #2051)*. Furthermore, NASCA auctioned their *third* specimen in the 1979 *Montreal Collection sale (lot #2018)*, which brought $1,100 (plus $55 commission) to the same collector who bought the Raymond piece two years earlier. It should be noted that this piece was referred to as a "dog" by one dealer; evidently the majority of one side was apparently deliberately defaced while the other side was in the VF/AU range.

The last known piece (uncirculated) was originally offered for sale by the Irish firm Peter Ireland (Format), Ltd. for approximately $11,500. This piece may have been the one sold and/or resold at Bill Rosenblum's 1981 *Los Angeles Sale (lot #206)* for a $10,000 winning bid.

Proof Coins

Except for the initial year 1927, Mandate coins having a proof surface were not minted for all the dates for the regular issues. In 1927, depending on your source, there were

1927 Double Proof Set with Case (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

either 33 or 34 double proof sets issued. Each set contained two coins of each denomination, placed in a red leather case bearing the inscription: "*Palestine Currency Board 1927*". The years have taken their toll; it is estimated today that probably no more than a dozen sets have remained both intact and undamaged. Of these dozen, approximately half are in museum collections. One guess is that about three sets that are now in private collections, ultimately to be either donated or sold to museums. Consequently, three or four sets will remain in private hands and may subsequently become available for any public or private sale to collectors.

Sidney Olson in his *Shekel* article recounted the story of his acquisition of the double proof set. However, the sale price for this 14-coin set was not publicly disclosed. On the other hand, the following public sales of other double proof sets have been noted:

> *Sylvia Haffner Sale (1974)* for $8,000.
> *Alexander Goldstein Sale (1976, NASCA, lot #202)* for $10,000.
> *Sidney Olson Sale (1978, NASCA, lot #2111)* for $10,000 + $200 commission.
> *The Shield Collection (1981, Preger-Oppenheim, lot #450)* for $12,500.
> *The Los Angeles Sale (1981, Wm. Rosenblum, lot #204)* for $10,000.

In addition to these public sales, Colorado dealer Bill Rosenblum had offered a 1927 double proof set (on consignment) for sale on several occasions. First, in December 1979, he was asking $11,500, probably following the lead of the price set by the *Olson Sale*. However, there were no takers. It was offered again in January 1980, and in March 1980. I believe this set was twice put up for sale with reserve bids of $11,500 and $11,000 respectively, but there were still no active bidders.

It is my opinion that this same set was then "auctioned" by Preger & Oppenheim in a New York public sale. I use the term "auctioned" loosely because, although the set was hammered down with an opening mail bid of $12,500, it is my understanding that the "buyer" reneged on the sale; the set was returned to the consignor unsold. Furthermore, it is possible that the 1981 Los Angeles set which sold for $10,000 was probably the same set offered three times before by Rosenblum.

1927 Single Proof Set With Case (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

Although the double proof set is well known to Palestine collectors, the rarer *single* 1927 proof set has been offered for public sale only once. The 1976 *Goldstein Sale* specimen (lot #203) sold for $4,600. It is thought that there are only one or two sets known that are housed in a

special leather presentation case. In 1979, however, a New York dealer purchased a single 1927 set of the seven proof coins, without the presentation case, for $3,500 from a Paramount sale. I was fortunate to see this set as I was visiting the buyer on the day it arrived in the mail. It's hard to imagine that a presentation case alone could be worth over $1,000!

Inasmuch as several individual proof coins have appeared for sale in the past several years, all having the 1927 date, they apparently do not command the importance, interest, nor notoriety of a complete set.

Banknotes

Besides coinage, the *Palestine Currency Board* was authorized to issue banknotes of various denominations. Listed in the table are the 22 dated banknotes reputedly issued by the *Currency Board* from 1927 to 1945 in the denominations of 500 Mils, 1, 5, 10, 50, and 100 Palestine Pounds. Like the coinage list, the asterisk(*) indicates the "rarer" notes, regardless of grade. As a general rule the 1927 notes are the most expensive of all the dates, although the 1927 500 Mil and 1 Pound notes do appear occasionally for sale in various grades. The known sales of 1927 5-Pound, all 50 Pound, and all 100 Pound notes are of interest.

1927 5 Pound Note

The first public offering of a 1927, 5 Pound note of any grade in the past seven years was a specimen in a mail bid sale by *Preger and Oppenheim (lot #304)* in February, 1981. As was described to me, the note was a "real rag," grading no better than "good" with tears in the center fold and edges repaired with tape. In spite of its appearance, it drew a winning bid of approximately $675, despite the catalog indication of a reserve estimate of only $160.

From its initial sale, it took only ten months until a 1927 5 Pound note was offered for sale. This time, it appeared in a mail bid sale held by the New Jersey firm of *W.P. Andrews (lot #10)*. Interestingly enough, lot #10 was exactly the same specimen sold earlier by Preger and Oppenheim. From a $1,500 catalog estimate, this "rag" now went for $2,300. Other than this note, I am aware of only two others, both of which are in private collections, probably purchased via private sales. Not even the extremely comprehensive *1978 Olson Sale* had such a note.

50 Pound Notes

In general, 50-Pound notes are highly rare in any grade and for any date. The late noted numismatist and auctioneer, Herb Melnick once told me, "if you have the opportunity to buy one, buy it now as you may not see another one for a long time."

Just how rare are they? Well, Jack Fisher had estimated that probably eighty 50-Pound notes of all three dates issued were never redeemed,

The 22 Dated Banknotes of the Palestine Currency Board

500 Mils	1 Pound	5 Pounds
Sept. 1, 1927*	Sept. 1, 1927*	Sept. 1, 1927*
Sept. 30, 1929	Sept. 30, 1929	Sept. 30, 1929
April 20, 1939	April 20, 1939	April 20, 1939
Aug. 15, 1945	Jan. 1, 1944	Jan. 1, 1944
10 Pounds	**50 Pounds**	**100 Pounds**
Sept. 1, 1927*	Sept. 1, 1927*	Sept. 1, 1927*
Sept. 30, 1929	Sept. 30, 1929*	Sept. 30, 1929*
Sept. 7, 1939	Sept. 7, 1939*	Sept. 10, 1942*
Jan 1, 1944		

1929 50 Pound Note (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

although others have put this number closer to fifty notes. Because of their rarity and the manner which 50-Pound notes have been offered for sale, it is necessary to review both uncancelled and cancelled (i.e., hole-punched) specimens.

The first public sale of an uncancelled 50-Pound note was the *1976 Goldstein Sale (NASCA, lot #177)* in which a 1929 XF note (S/N A015731) from the *Sylvia Haffner Collection* was sold for $475. The price paid for this note was remarkable considering that approximately 25% of the note was burned away in a house fire; someone paid $475 for a banknote that was not all there!

The next five years revealed five occasions where a 50-Pound uncancelled note was sold, all bearing the 1929 date.

1977 Paramount Sale (lot #1255) for $1,050.

1978 Olson Sale (NASCA, lot #2119, S/N A015252) about XF, for $7,000 + $140 commission.

1981 AINA Sale (NASCA, lot #200, S/N A05593), almost uncirculated, for $10,000 + $500 commission.

1981 W. P. Andrews Mail Bid Sale (lot #17) VF, for $8,000.

1982 Paramount Sale, (S/N A005611), F, for $4,000

Besides these five sales, there were three occasions where cancelled 50-Pound notes were offered and sold. Like the uncancelled counterpart, cancelled specimens with numerous punch holes and the word "CANCELLED" stamped on the obverse and reverse are also rare; there are estimated to be only approximately five known.

The first cancelled 50-Pound note sold was lot #558 in the *1978 Weiss Sale (NASCA, 1939, S/N AO25667)*, graded G-F, for $1,500 plus a $75 commission. Later that year, *NASCA's Olson Sale* contained a 1927 aXF specimen (lot # 2120), which sold for $2,100 plus a $105 commission. The Weiss note was then offered for sale by Bill Rosenblum at least five different times between September, 1979 and January, 1981 for prices ranging from $2,750 to $3,250, apparently with no buyer. However in Rosenblum's 1981 *Los Angeles Sale (lot #267)* the Weiss note finally brought a $2,100 winning bid.

Of all the cancelled 50-Pound notes, the Weiss note is perhaps the most interesting. Although graded G-F and somewhat torn, the 16 cancellation holes were meticulously "filled in" with the corresponding portions of a 10-Pound note.

1939 "Cancelled" 50-Pound Note (Photo courtesy Herb Melnick, NASCA)

100 Pound Notes

Any discussion of Palestine rarities must focus on the 100 Pound note; no collection would ever be truly complete without one. This note is one of the rarest banknotes in the world; it would be a tremendous feat to possess even a single note. Perhaps a suitable comparison would be owning more than one gold *Brasher* dubloon. Jack Fisher in previous *Shekel* articles concluded that seven such notes were never redeemed, although only four are currently known.

The Fisher note (1929, S/N A001020), bought in the mid-1960's for $5,000 to $8,000 (estimated).

The Olson note (1927, S/N A000719), first obtained in a *1972 Stanley Gibbons Sale (lot #552)* for 1,100 Pounds Sterling ($2,684), and then sold in the 1978 *Olson Sale (lot #2114)* for $17,000 + a $340 commission to J. J. Van Grover.

A 1927 note (S/N A000935), sold by Bill Rosenblum in 1973 for $10,000 which was later repurchased by Rosenhlum and

1927 100-Pound Note (Photo courtesy Bill Rosenblum)

sold to Arnold Kagan in 1977, for approximately $20,000.

A 1929 note (S/N A001088), sold by Dr. G. H. Neale through Bill Rosenblum to Stanley Yulish in 1977, price unknown.

A fifth 100 Pound note, bearing a September 10, 1942 date has been pictured in various books by Haffner, Trowbridge, Kadman, and Bertram. It is a "specimen" note, witb the serial number A00000, perforated with the word "CANCELLED". It is my understanding that the late Leo Kadman obtained a picture of this note from London. No other 1942 note, uncancelled or cancelled, is presently known to exist. The past few years have produced several rumors of the existence of a *fifth* uncancelled 100-Pound note in Israel, although all leads to its confirmation have been fruitless.

It is not feasible to attempt to give a price for each of the 22 dated banknotes; the data would be impossible to collect. Most of these notes exist in a wide variety of grades. For the most part it would not be too difficult to collect all notes except the 1927 5-Pound, 1927 10-Pound, and all 50 and 100-Pound issues. With this in mind, it is reasonable to put together a nice looking collection (G to XF) of the remaining fourteen notes for up to about $2,500.

"What does it cost?" At least the present valuation of the rarer Palestine items has been narrowed down with values pegged to names, places and dates. If anyone has any further information to add, or has either a 1927 5 or 10-Pound note for sale, the author would appreciate hearing from you. Please address all correspondence to P. O. Box 9431, Wilmington, DE 19809.

COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR 1984 MEMBERSHIP MEDAL DESIGN

Here's an opportunity for you to explore your own numismatic creativity. Design the medal to be given to every member of the American Israel Numismatic Association early in 1984!

It's easy! Any pen or pencil sketch; any rough doodle which illustrates what you believe should be on the reverse of the AINA medals could win.

You not only get nationwide and international acclaim as the designer of the permanent 1984 medal, you also get an honorarium of $100.00 as your *First Prize* award.

Past winners have been such long time numismatists as Howard Ahl of Palm Bay, Florida; Jacob Henneberg of Cleveland; and Nat Sobel of New York City.

How did they win? They showed a way to: include the name of the organization, *the year*, and also a design "look" which appealed to the judges. 1984 is AINA's 17th Anniversary, and Israel's 36th Anniversary—*Double Chai*.

There is no limit to the number of entries. The judges will be happy to look at your designs. Make designs at least as large as a playing card to give yourself room to letter in words and numbers.

Entries from members of AINA only, please. Entries must be at Contest HQ, AINA, P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, Fl. 33320 by October 1, 1983.

GREATER NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CONVENTION REACHES PEAK BOURSE

With the largest number of numismatic dealers in the history of the annual Spring Greater New York Numismatic Convention, attendees enjoyed the greatest opportunities to acquire coins, paper money, medals, literature and related items of interest to collectors and historians, announced Julius Turoff, General Chairman.

Morris Bram, president of the American Israel Association was one of the major banquet speakers which culminated all activities for the convention which was held at the New York Sheraton from April 28 – May 1, 1983.

The four day event which included a convention of the American Israel Numismatic Association; a meeting of the Metropolitan Tokens and Medals Society; a Young Numismatists Day led by Mrs. Florence Schook, ANA Board member of Michigan and a major area of numismatic exhibits concluded with a banquet. Master of Ceremonies was Stanley L. Yulish, Executive Vice President of AINA.

A major display of four cases at the Exhibits Centre featured the 100th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge with medals, tokens and related exonumia from the collection of Julius Turoff.

The Education Forum, chaired by Ed Janis, a former president of a number of New York area coin clubs and a member of the Board of Directors of AINA, presented two major addresses. *A Brief History of Jewish Bankers in America* was presented by Ed Schuman, an AINA Board Member and club leader from Florida. He detailed the life stories of a number of 19th century bankers from before and after the Civil War. Merchant tokens *(Hard Times)* from the 1830s created in giant numbers during the 1830s was the theme of a

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS HEAR ANTHONY SWIATEK. A program directed by Young Numismatists Chairman Florence Schook of Michigan included an education program and exhibits plus awards and presentations. L. to r.: Cliff Levy, Robin Esacof, Anthony Swiatek, Florence Schook and Scott Travers.

EDUCATION FORUM HEARS RULAU, SCHUMAN

Moderator Ed Janis (left) introduces speakers Russ Rulau (standing) of Krause Publications and Ed Schuman, a past President of AINA.

FISHGOLD LITERARY AWARD

The first Milton Fishgold Memorial Award awarded to the author of the best article in THE SHEKEL to appear during the prior year was awarded to David Paszamant of New Jersey for his article on "Jews on Modern Coinage." Award was made by Morris Bram (r.); Mel Wacks (l.) and Jerry Yahalom, r., ctr.) Milton Fishgold, longtime West Coast leader of Israel numismatic collectors (inset) died earlier this year.

GNYNC AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the competitive awards at the GNYNC included (l. to r.) Alan Weinberg; George Beach; Arthur Leff; Fr. Edward J. Hogan; Larry Gentile, Jr.; and William Horton, Jr. and committee member Michael Druck.

Winner of the Best-of-Show Award was William Horton, Jr. of N.J. with a display, "Denomination Set of 1914 Federal Reserve Notes."

The annual Arnold Kagan Award was won by Howard Berlin, Del. with "U.S. Numismatic Events of World War II, 1942-45."

Other awards:

Class I — U.S.:

First Place: Robert Seeger, N.Y.: "U.S. Mint Chief Engravers"

Second Place: Edward Coppinger, Mass.: "How to Detect Counterfeit Paper Money"

Class II — Israel

First Place: Alan Weinberg, N.Y.

Second Place: Jack Garfield, Florida: Jerusalem, City of Peace"

Second Place (tie): Arthur Leff, Canada: "12 Jerusalem Windows"

Class III — Tokens and Medals

First Place: Edward J. Hogan, N.Y.: "Father of His Country"

Second Place: Richard Pasternack, N.Y.: "Medals of Maccabee Mint"

Class IV — Miscellaneous

First Place: Lawrence Gentile, Sr., N.Y.: "Family of Constantine I the Great"

Second Place: Emanual Rubin, N.Y.: "Hadassah"

Class V — Foreign

First Place: George Beach, Micb.: Ancient Conterfeit Coins"

Second Place: Father Hoga, N.Y.: "La Belle France"

Young Numismatists

First Place: Robin Esakof, N.Y.: "U.S. 5c Pieces"

Second Place: Jason Samuels, N.Y.: " A Tribute to JFK"

major presentation by Russ Rulau, a longtime numismatic expert and author and a major executive with Krause Publications.

REUNION: Nahum Hacohen, Director for N. America of IGCAM meets with Jerry Yahalom of Calif. and Stanley Yulish of Ohio.

Among celebrities present were former president of the ANA George Hatie; longtime AINA friends John J. Pittman and Steve Taylor; ANA Board Member Florence Schook; and Nahum Hacohen, Director for North America of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Other activities of special interest to members of AINA included a general membership meeting; a meeting of members of AINA clubs from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, California and Massachusetts; and a meeting of the Board of Directors of AINA.

The following committees provided services necessary to fulfill the various programs conducted by the Convention:

REGISTRATION
Faye Stern, Chairperson
May Baum
Clara Friedler
Sidney Goldfield
Rose Reich
Florence Turoff

EXHIBITS
Martin Morgenstern, Chairman
Michael Druck
Barbara Druck

BOURSE
Co-Chairmen
Jack Garfield
Moe Weinschel
Norman Pepin

EDUCATIONAL FORUM
Edward Janis, Moderator
Russ Rulau, Speaker
Edward Schuman, Speaker
Art Kagin, Speaker

AINA GENERAL MEETING
Morris Bram, President
Stanley Yulish, Vice President

AUCTION
Arnold H. Kagan

SIGNS
Julius Turoff, Chairman
Norman Pepin

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS
Florence Schook, Chairperson
Robin Esakof
Cliff Levy
Scott Travers

KEYS
Michael Druck

DEALER REGISTRATION
Barbara Druck

PUBLICITY
Frances Baum

AWARDS
Moe Weinschel
Julius Turoff
Nat Sobel

CASES & PROPERTY
Norman Pepin
Frank Stickel

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS
Arthur Reich

SECURITY
Jack Garfield
Moe Weinschel

RECEPTION & BANQUET
Chairman
Walter Stefanacci
Faye Stefanacci
Rocco Stefanacci

BOARD CONVENES: Bottom, ctr.: Morris Bram, re-elected President of AINA; l., V.P. Stanley Yulish; r., Julius Turoff, Treasurer. Standing: David Paszamant, N.H. Hacohen (guest), Sylvia Haffner, Arnold H. Kagan, Donna Sims, Jerry Yahalom, Irving L. Rudin, Moe Weinschel, Ed Schuman, Mel Wacks and Fred Roganson.

A VARIETY OF AN ISRAEL TELEPHONE TOKEN

By Samuel Lachman, Haifa

In the January/February 1983 issue of *The Shekel*, this writer published a list of the Israel Telephone tokens known to him. A further variety of token No. 1 dated (5)713, i.e. 1953, has been found. The variety has the numeral "8" handstruck on the reverse at right. There is no other difference between this token and the token No. 1. This token becomes No. 1a.

This variety was picked out of a random lot which contained both varieties. So far no reason has been offered for the stamping of the numeral 8 on some of these tokens.

I am grateful to Mr. David M. Gordon of Philadelphia, PA, for drawing my attention to this variety.

A DIE CRACK OF THE 10 SHEQALIM 5742 — 1982 COIN

By Samuel Lachman, Haifa

A die crack has been found on the 10 Sheqalim coin of 5742—1982. For those not conversant with such varieties, its definition is as follows: "*Die cracks are fine lines, like hair lines which appear as a raised line on the coin. On the die it is of course recessed.*"

The die crack on the 10 Sheqalim coin occurs on the obverse. It runs from the emblem of the State to the outer edge. It can only be found on uncirculated and minimally circulated coins, inasmuch as it is rubbed off on circulated coins. Several pieces with this crack have been observed.

ISRAEL COINS DEPICT FORTRESS OF HERODION

Where is Herod buried?

Many believe that the king of Judaea who lived from 73-4 B.C. is buried at Herodion, approximately eight miles south of Jerusalem, 3½ miles east of Bethlehem. The mountain-top fortress will be depicted on three coins of Israel, to appear in September.

Herod the Great knew the area well. In 40 B.C., he fought Mattathias Antigonus, the last Maccabean king, at the site of the ruin. Herod, the builder, constructed fortresses and castles and earthworks which can be pointed out today by guides at several sites in Israel.

The fortress will be outlined on the reverse of half, 1-shekel and 5-sheqalim coins of Israel, 1983, struck in gold and silver, Proof and Uncirculated.

Herod's Funeral

Herod showed the wisdom of a politician when Antigonus rebelled against the Roman occupiers, first opposing Antigonus and then retreating a distance, not taking part in the final Roman-Maccabean fracas.

What is so important about knowing where Herod is buried? Josephus, in *The Jewish War I, 670-673*, relates:

Silver and gold Proof and Uncirculated coins of half and 1-shekel and 5-sheqalim are to be released in Israel with the common reverse of Herodion, as shown above, dated 1983.

"The king's funeral next occupied attention. Archelaus, omitting nothing that could contribute to its magnificence, brought forth all the royal ornaments to accompany the procession in honor of the deceased.

"The bier was of solid gold, studded with precious stones, and had a covering of purple, embroidered with various colors; on this lay the body enveloped in a purple robe, a diadem encircling the head and surmounted by a crown of gold, the scepter beside his right hand."

Excavations of the 45-acre site at Herodium began in 1945, with the golden bier of Herod especially sought.

S. Aviezer, assistant director, currency department of the Bank of Israel, Jerusalem, said the coins were designed by Dan Gelbart; the engravers were Victor Huster and Tidhar Dagan.

They are being struck at the Bavarian State Mint, Munich.

	Gold Proof	**Silver Proof**	**Silver BU**
Nominal Value	*I.S. 5*	*I.S. 1*	*I.S. ½*
Weight	*8.63 gr*	*14.4 gr*	*7.2 gr*
Diameter	*22 mm*	*30 mm*	*23 mm*
Edge	*12 sides — reeded*	*12 sides — reeded*	*12 sides — smooth*
Metallic	*Gold: 0.900*	*Silver: 0.850*	*Silver: 0.850*
Composition	*Copper: 0.100*	*Copper: 0.150*	*Copper: 0.150*

"AM YISRAEL CHAI" GOLD STATE MEDAL PRESENTED TO OFRA HAZAH

Ofra Hazah, "Israel's Ambassador" to the 1983 Eurovision Competition was presented with the Official Gold State Medal, "Am Yisrael Chai", recently issued by the Corporation by IGCAM Director, Mr. Eliezer Shiloni and Mr. Israel Zedaka, Deputy Managing Director. Ofra Hazah's song, "Am Yisrael Chai", represented Israel at the European Song Festival this year. The medal—like the song—has been thrice blessed with "Chai" (the Hebrew letters spelling this word, which means "lives", also represent the number 18): it is made of 18 (Chai)—carat gold, its diameter is 18 (Chai) mm., and the words, "Am Yisrael Chai" appear on it, written in a very artistic fasbion.

The medal was mounted on an elegant, fine gold chain and is from a collection of Jewelry produced especially for the Official State Medals of the State of Israel.

AINA RESEARCH LIBRARY LAUNCHED WITH BROSS DONATION

The American Israel Numismatic Association and its president, Morris Bram, are proud to announce establishment of the *A.I.N.A. Research Library*, a new unit of the national organization charged with the collection and preservation of a centralized research archives of published works and manuscript material dealing with Israel, Judaic and related MidEast numismatics, holocaust and related topics.

The new *A.I.N.A. Research Library*, to be administered jointly by Stanley Yulish, Executive Vice President of A.I.N.A., and Fred Ross, currently serving as president of the Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland, has been made possible by several donations from generous and concerned members.

Foremost among initial contributors is a unique individual, Mr. Maurice Bross, a long-time I.N.S. of Cleveland member. Mr. Bross, 82 years of age, is acutely interested in the preservation and study of Judaic history. He is one of the few surviving original members of the famed *Jewish Legion*, having served as a young English soldier in the *38th Battalion* of the *Royal Fusiliers* in both Europe and Palestine during and following World War One.

Maurice Bross as a soldier: 38th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, Jewish Legion 1918.

Maurice Bross has most generously donated $2,000.00 enabling published works to be acquired. A.I.N.A. and President Morris Bram solicit all members and other interested parties to consider donations of money and/or numismatic works to the *Library*. Tax deductible cash donations will enable selective addition of pertinent research material in addition to donated numismatic and related references and studies.

Located in Cleveland

The *Research Library* will be located in Cleveland, Ohio. Initial plans call for acquisitions and cataloguing work, after which library loans will be made to serious, interested numismatic and Judaica researchers.

Ultimately, the *A.I.N.A. Research Library*, in addition to becoming a North American archival research center for Israel and MidEast Judaica and numismatics, is anticipated to evolve into a broad resource center. It will be capable of supplying historical background material for lectures, numismatic photographic services, as well as other services to A.I.N.A. members and interested outside researchers.

Donors of research material, money, books on Judaica/Israel numismatics, etc., are encouraged to contact Stanley Yulish or Fred Ross, c/o Yuish Twohig & Associates, 600 Rockefeller Building, 614 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113; or Morris Bram, Post Office Box 25790, Tamarac, Florida 33320.

My Israel Experience: AINA's 15th Annual Study Tour

By Seymour (Turk) Specter

Early in January 1983, a neighbor and good friend, Brian Hersch told me that a group called A.I.N.A. had a great deal for a two-week tour in Israel. I didn't know what an A.I.N.A. was. However, Brian explained all: The timing was good, the price was great.

When March 3 rolled around, Brian Hersh and I drove from glorious Philadelphia to New York to board an El Al plane. Our ten-hour flight to Israel was smooth, and reasonably fast; food was good and the A.I.N.A. people were cordial. The electricity in the air started as the plane dropped to land. Over the intercom, "Shalom Aleichem" inspired sing-along and hand clapping. We departed the #747 and boarded buses for the terminal.

Our second home was to be an orange Mercedes Benz bus. Guide David Aveth introduced us to our very capable driver, Yussy, a handsome, moustached *sabra* of Iraqi descent. (David was an Egyptian Jew who had come to Israel many years

AINA March 3-17, 1983 Tour included Mr. and Mrs. S. Willner, Va. Beach, Va.; Dr. C. Freedman, Hiusborough, CA; Mr. B. Hersch, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. S. Sould, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Mr. K. Williams, Mercer Island, WA; Mr. and Mrs. A. Stieglitz, Old Bethpage, NY; Mr. J. Gotlieb and Mr. D. Gotlieb, Canoga Park, CA; Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, Hollywood, FL; Mr. and Mrs. I. Mossman, Federalsburg, MD; Mr. S. Gurvitch, Newton MA; and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bram, Tamarac, FL.

Brian Hersch sees the Western Wall and visits an outpost.

earlier). Our first destination—the Tel Aviv Hilton.

We rested and went to a cordial Sabbath dinner with our group.

Saturday, was an off day (no guide to direct our itinerary) and some went to a local museum, others socialized in the hotel. That night we had an official dinner attended by several Israel dignataries. Also, there was Dr. Fedebush, an A.I.N.A. member and an American dentist who had settled in Israel.

The following morning, we bussed to the Kadman Numismatic Museum, then on to the Biblical gardens of Neut Kedumin. A charming guide (a former resident of the Bronx) gave a visual slide show and a brief tour of the gardens.

I think a highlight of the trip for me, when I really felt proud of being an American and a Jew, was the day we drove to Kfar Chabad, a Hassid village. Its purpose was to educate and to teach trades to students primarily from disadvantaged homes; to promote spiritual activity and to be involved with war widows, army units, patients at hospitals and inmates at prisons.

Many of our group were enthralled by the charismatic Rabbi Yehuda Edelkopf. With his dynamic energy and contagious personality, many of us were touched by his lecture and tour. Many of us dug deep into pockets or wrote generous checks to aid the men, women, and children of *Kfar Chabad*.

Monday, March 7th: Tel Aviv University where we toured the famous Diaspora museum: several floors with displays, pictures, and scale models to tell the history of the scattered Jews up to the creation of modern state of Israel. Later that evening, we toured the old city of Jaffa. Our guide took us to a modern sculpture at the highest point in Jaffa, lectured and then turned us loose for a half-hour to shop or tour.

Tuesday, March 8th: On the way to the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa, we visited Acco, where prison scenes from the movie *Exodus* were shot. We wandered through the Oriental market and were guided about the medieval Crusaders fortress. We had a delightful lunch at the Christian kibbutz of *Nes Amm*. People there were fanatically pro-Israel. We concluded our afternoon at the Holocaust Museum at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot. That night we enjoyed an excellent dinner with members of the Israel Numismatic society of Haifa.

It was at this dinner that I became aware of my godfather Sam Gurvitch who made it a point to share his meals with me, even to running

around the table to give me his desserts. After dinner, several of our group, Brian *(oom-pah)* Hersch, Keith *(Chi Chi)* Williams, Dave *(Fric)* Gotlieb (with one "T") and Jack *(Frac)* Gotleib (with one "T") had some brew and chit-chat in the lobby. Keith Williams and I later went out to sample the nightlife of Haifa. We finagled ourselves into a young private club where we imbibed quite heavily. I knew I was a little under the weather when I mistook a tram (Haifa's equivalency to a Subway) for the elevator in my hotel. I kept yelling "up, up" when the tram was going *down-down* to the harbor level.

Wednesday, March 9th: On to the Artist's colony in the ancient city of Safed. This was a winding, picturesque trip, highlighted by a visit to an ancient Sephardic synagogue. From there we went up and down hills to the north where we reached the friendship gate. There Lebanese were admitted (prior to the *Peace-in-Galilee* campaign) for free medical treatment.

We lunched at the Hagoshrim Guest House in the Upper Galilee. I became addicted to *schnitzel* (breaded turkey). We motored thru the Golan Heights past Druze villages to a spot from where we could see the United Nations camp and beyond, the town of Kuneitra in Syria. A huge hill was capped with aerials, radar dishes and sophisticated electronics.

Our guide David said, "In United States you have your *AWACS;* in Israel we have our hilltop surveillance bases. We know when Syrians sneeze. And please, no pictures or there will be a jeep down here in 5-minutes to confiscate your film."

From these heights we drove to a site where the Romans had killed more people than at Massada from a hill village not far from Lake Tiberias.

On several occasions, we picked up hitchhiking Israeli soldiers, some with Uzi and other weapons nonchalantly thrown over their shoulders. Of course, Brian Hersch and I were all eyes when a pretty young Israeli lady recruit entered the bus. We would call to David to send them to the rear of the bus where we had set up our bachelor headquarters. I would always greet them with the phonetically phrased—"*Yaffa, a-knee ohev at-taw*" ("beautiful lady, I'm in love with you".) Whatever I said, they rolled their eyes, smiled, and made a finger-swirling sign to their temple—like, I was nuts.

Thursday, March 10 until we departed for Ben Gurion airport on Thursday, March 17: The pace picked up dramatically. We toured "*many*" historic, religious and quasi-commercial centers.

On the way to Jerusalem, we stopped and saw Nazareth, visited the Church of Annunciation; Bet Shearim, seat of the high court of Judges of Israel and the ruins of one of the oldest synagogues in the world. At Megiddo we saw the excavated Tel with its 20 levels of civilization. Incidentally, this site was a key passageway thru which all the conquering armies traveled. From the highest point you can oversee a vast green plain—whereby, the New Testament says, the *Armagedon* (the final and conclusive battle between *good* and *evil*) will occur.

We visited Jericho, one of the oldest cities. At Lake Tiberias we had a fantastic lunch at a harbor restaurant.

We went on into Jerusalem, one of the most fascinating cities in the world. As we entered the city and rounded one of the highest levels, our bus pulled over; our able guide passed out cups and poured wine for all. He said a prayer, more traditional than religious. As we left the bus for a brief panoramic view of Jerusa-

lem, a few of the men became intant camel drivers ("Frac," Jack and Stanley, one of the rover boys.) After some picture taking we went directly to the Jerusalem Hilton, a beautiful modern hotel. A continuous flow of celebrities and people from all walks of life were there for a vast convention. While sitting in the lobby at various times, I saw Yitzhak Rabin (former Premier); Simon Wiesenthal (international Nazi Hunter), Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem and others.

Starting on Friday, March 11: Our guide took us to an attraction which featured the scale-model of the *Old City* of Jerusalem during King Herod's reign.

Our tour day started at the "Zion Gate", thru the Jewish quarter and its framed four Sephardic synagogues and ended at the Western Wall. The Wall and the praying people put me in a state of awe. That Sabbath eve, we stood spellbound as about 300 rabbinical students with arms around each other's waists came singing and marching down the steps from the inner Jewish quarter to the Western Wall for Sabbath prayers. We walked the Via Dolorosa (path or way) to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the market places and bazaars I felt like "Peppy Le Moko" from the movie, *Casbah*.

Another day our guide David had us hopping again early in the morning to the famous Hadassah Hospital and a view of the Chagall windows. Then, on to the Kennedy Memorial and to the military cemetery of Mt. Herzl, we saw the memorial to Israeli submarine #426, that disappeared two days out from England (where it was purchased).

The Yad Vashem (memorial to the six million martyred Jews) proved the most unemotional person can get choked up and brought to a little eye wiping.

When we departed later on from the bus, we witnessed a peaceful strike rally by the public bus and taxi drivers outside the Ministry of Transportation. In order to enter the Knesset, a thorough security check is given, including a body frisk. Later, we were taken thru the Knesset by a vibrant female college senior named "Aurity"; I fell in love instantaneously, but she did not respond. We concluded our visit to the Knesset following a private discussion with Menachan Golan (Israel's "Tip" O'Neill). He is speaker of the Parliament, a delightful, intelligent man.

The Israel Museum, vast to say the least, requires two to four hours to view properly. We could only afford 45-minutes.

At the Dead Sea, only one person on our party wanted to go swimming. I do not want to reveal his name, but he slept in my room and his name rhymes with *Gersh*.

We reached the base of Masada. There you can hike up a trail (snake path) to the top (takes 40 minutes) or embark on a cable car (for five minutes). Only one person in our party wanted to climb to the top. I do not want to reveal his name, but he split my hotel bill with me and his name sounds like a chocolate bar.

The top is quite vast, about five football fields in width and length. We had been preceded by hundreds of tourists: a Southern Baptist church group; S.W. U.S. Allied Jewish Appeal group; junior high students; Israeli army reserves; even some Scandinavian youths.

Our guide took us to the four corners of Masada and pointed out Herod's two palaces, a synagogue, Roman bath houses, and food storage bins.

As we assembled for the cable car decline, two Israeli phantom jets flew low over Masada and they seemed to tip their wings to us, the tourists.

Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem; Morris Bram, president of AINA and Brian Hersch of Philadelphia.

That night, a delightful farewell dinner with many Israeli dignitaries. Teddy Kollek made a brief appearance. Officials of the Israeli mint, banking and finance departments were present. We all received mementos from the Israeli Government Coins and Medals Corporation. Morris Bram, our noble leader gave all souvenir medallions related to our trip. Incidentally, I joined A.I.N.A. After dinner, we had informal singing led by Morris *"East Side, West Side"* Bram and *(Frac)* Jack Gotlieb (who sings songs in English, French, Hebrew and Yiddish).

On Tuesday morning, thru the influence of tour leader Bram, we were permitted (very few are) to tour the Israel National Mint and Publication Center. This is an institution where coins and currency are made, but also where stamps and important documents such as passports and identification cards are prepared. It was fascinating and illuminating. From the mint, we visited the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation retail outlet where many of our group purchased coins, coin sets, and commemorative medals.

After lunch, a tour of the Hassidic Jewish section, Mea Sherim. This ultra-Orthodox is a very strange sect. We toured the area; many of us bought gifts and souvenirs at various shops.

Wednesday, March 16: David had us dress warmly for a cold, drizzly tour of Bethlehem. We saw Rachel's tomb, a very religious site for Hassidic Jews and Jewish women. The Church of Nativity, there where Jesus was born.

Thursday, March 17: Three of us, with David directing, went to the bazaar in the Old City, and back to *Mea Sherim*. I purchased many trinkets at B. Cohen and then went to downtown Jerusalem. At the department store and several specialty shops, the quality of merchandise is excellent. Prices are equal if not higher (especially leather) than in the United States.

There was little sleep on the ten-hour return flight to the U.S. due to the constant talking, baby crying, *dovning* (praying), food service and visiting. But all ended well; we dropped in altitude as over the intercom came an Israeli song, "Hallaluyeh."

Baggage claims, and customs and a few brief hugs and kisses; our study tour to Israel had ended.

* * * *

I wrote this article from memory, ten days after coming back. Therefore, for my fellow travelers, I apologize if I have misspelled names or mixed up the itinerary. The bottom line though is: I had the greatest vacation of my life with a super-group of people in a most fantastic country.

NEW SHEQEL BANKNOTES TO FEATURE PRIME MINISTERS AND NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

By Paul Wolffers, Bat Yam

When in December 1982 the *Bank of Israel* introduced the 500 Sheqalim banknote, few Israelis could have predicted that in just a month or two, Baron Edmond De Rothschild would dominate the local paper money scene.

With a present face value of just over 11 U.S. dollars, the 500 Sheqalim banknote has gained popularity due to two primary factors: Compact size (138 x 76 mm.) and bright, distinguishable colors.

The success may have been one of the reasons that prompted the Currency Issuing Unit of the *Bank of Israel* to embark on an extensive issuing program which projects the release of four additional high-denomination sheqel banknotes.

As announced earlier, a banknote with a face value of 1000 Sheqalim will be released during the second half of 1983. It will feature the medieval scholar Moses Maimonides (1135-1204). After Maimonides, popularly known as "Rambam", a name derived from Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, it will be the turn of two of Israel's outstanding political leaders. Golda Meir (1898-1978) was Israel's fourth Prime Minister, serving from 1969 until 1974. Contradictory reports indicate that she will appear either on a banknote valued at 2000 or of 2500 Sheqalim. As preparation of new banknotes requires almost two years, the new denomination is not expected to be released before late 1984.

Preparations are underway for the later release of a 5000 Sheqalim banknote. Levi Eshkol, Israel's third prime minister, presided from 1963 until his death in February, 1969. Born in 1895 near Kiev, Russia, as Levi Shkolnik, Eshkol played a dominant role in Israel's political life for over 40 years. During his term of office he was a leader who helped unify Israeli politics into a broad coalition, days before the outbreak of the 1967 *Six-Day War*.

Levi Eshkol's portrait will occupy a worthy place on the new banknote, which should be available sometime during 1985.

Famed Writer to he Honored

The last famous Israeli mentioned in the *Issuing Program* is writer and Nobel Laureate in Literature: Shmuel Yosef "Shai" Agnon (1888-1970). Born in Buczacz, Galicia, as Samuel Josef Czaczkes, Agnon emigrated to Eretz Israel in 1907. He left for Germany in 1913, but finally made the Holy Land his home in 1924. Agnon's numerous novels and other literary works won him international acclaim. His endeavours were crowned when he received the coveted *Nobel Prize* for Literature in Stockholm, 1966.

Information pertaining to face value and approximate date of issue have yet to be released. It is assumed that this banknote will be valued at 10,000 Sheqalim and enter circulation in about three years. At the present rate of exchange the 10,000 Sheqalim banknote would be valued at 225 U.S. dollars. Bearing in mind that Israel has a 125% annual rate of inflation, it should be worth only just about $25 if released mid-1986.

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